

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for controlling a device for the distribution of audio, video, data or control signals, with the device having at least one switching matrix, which has a number of inputs and a number of outputs as well as a corresponding number of coupling points for production of links between the inputs and outputs, with the method comprising the following steps:

- (a) selection of coupling points which are required for a signal path between an input and an output;
- (b) connection of the coupling points selected in step (a) in order to produce the signal path; and
- (c) locking of the coupling points in the connected state in step (b);
- (d) combining and jointly locking two or more signal paths to form a jointly locked signal path bundle; and
- (e) preventing an unlocking of any one of the two or more signal paths that form the jointly locked signal path bundle.

2. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the coupling points are successively locked in the signal flow direction.

3. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the coupling points are locked in the opposite direction to the signal flow direction.

4. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the coupling points are unlocked in the signal flow direction.

5. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the coupling points are successively unlocked in the opposite direction to the signal flow direction.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim ~~6~~ 1, wherein ~~the process of joining~~ combining and jointly locking two or more signal paths ~~together~~ to form a jointly locked signal path bundle is carried out by the entry of input or outputs for the respective signal paths in a list.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 7, wherein the jointly locked signal path bundle is cancelled by deletion of all the inputs and outputs from the list.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim ~~10~~ 1, wherein ~~the~~ an attempt to unlock a locked signal path which is part of a path bundle initiates the indication of a warning message.

12. (Original) A storage medium in which a program code is stored which can be stored in the program memory of a data processing system and causes a program to be run which carries out the method steps as claimed in claim 1.